In the Claims

Claims 62-126 are canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 1-61 were previously canceled.

New claims 127-180 are added as follows.

127. (new) A masonry block splitter for splitting a masonry workpiece, comprising:

an activatible first splitting assembly that includes one or more splitting members positioned to define a splitting line and to engage the workpiece to split it generally along the splitting line and that further includes a plurality of projections adjacent the splitting line on at least one side thereof and positioned to engage the workpiece to break away portions of the workpiece during the splitting operation.

128. (new) The masonry block splitter of claim 127, wherein the block splitter includes a second activatible splitting assembly opposed to the first splitting assembly, the second splitting assembly including one or more splitting members positioned to define the splitting line and to engage the workpiece to split it generally along the splitting line and also including a plurality of projections adjacent the splitting line on at least one side thereof and positioned to engage the workpiece to break away portions of the workpiece during the splitting operation, the projections of the second splitting assembly being disposed on the same side of the splitting line as the projections of the first splitting assembly.

129. (new) The masonry block splitter of claim 127, wherein the projections are generally cylindrically shaped.

130. (new) The masonry block splitter of claim 129, wherein the projections have generally-rounded tips.

131. (new) The masonry block splitter of claim 129, wherein the projections have irregular tips.

132. (new) The masonry block splitter of claim 129, wherein the projections have a diameter of between about 0.5 inch and about 1.25 inches.

133. (new) The masonry block splitter of claim 127, wherein the projections comprise plates.

134. (new) The masonry block splitter of claim 127, wherein the projections are generally pyramidal in shape.

135. (new) The masonry block splitter of claim 127, wherein the one or more splitting members of the first splitting assembly is a single splitting blade aligned with the splitting line.

136. (new) The masonry block splitter of claim 135, wherein the blade has a workpiece-engaging edge, wherein said projections have workpiece-engaging tips, and wherein said workpiece-engaging tips are positioned relative to the workpiece-engaging edge so as to be between about 3/8 inch ahead of the workpiece-engaging edge and about 3/8 inch behind the workpiece-engaging edge.

137. (new) The masonry block splitter of claim 136, where the workpiece-engaging edge of the splitting blade and the workpiece-engaging tips of the projections are fixed relative to each other during a splitting operation whereby said tips and said edge move in concert when the splitting assembly is activated.

138. (new) The masonry block splitter of claim 127, wherein the projections are positioned on the first splitting assembly relative to the one or more splitting members so as to engage the workpiece to break away portions of the workpiece substantially simultaneously with, or subsequent to, the one or more splitting members engaging the workpiecc.

139. (new) The masonry block splitter of claim 138, wherein at least some of the projections are positioned on the first splitting assembly relative to the one or more splitting members so as to break away portions of the workpiece subsequent to the one or more splitting members engaging the workpiece.

140. (new) The masonry block splitter of claim 127, wherein the projections are positioned to travel into the workpiece during the splitting operation.

141. (new) The masonry block splitter of claim 127, wherein the one or more splitting members comprise portions of at least some of the projections.

142. (new) A masonry block splitter for splitting a masonry workpiece, the block splitter having an activatible first splitting blade assembly comprising a first splitting edge, a plurality of first engagement surfaces extending away from the first splitting edge at acute angles, said first engagement surfaces being positioned to engage the workpiece and to break away portions of the workpiece during the splitting operation, and a first plurality of projections projecting from at least one of the first engagement surfaces adjacent the first splitting edge, said first projections being positioned to engage the workpiece to break away portions of the workpiece during the splitting operation.

143. (new) The masonry block splitter of claim 142, wherein the block splitter includes a second activatible splitting blade assembly opposed to the first splitting blade assembly, and wherein the second splitting blade assembly includes a second splitting edge, a plurality of second engagement surfaces extending away from the second splitting edge at acute angles, said second engagement surfaces being positioned to engage the workpiece to break away portions of the workpiece during the splitting operation, and a second plurality of projections projecting from at least one of the second engagement surfaces adjacent the second splitting edge.

144. (new) The masonry block splitter of claim 143, wherein the acute angles of the engagement surfaces are preferably between about 0 degrees and about 30 degrees.

145. (new) A masonry block splitter comprising a first activatible splitting assembly, said splitting assembly including a first splitting blade and a first plurality of projections positioned adjacent the first splitting blade on at least one side thereof to engage a masonry workpiece to break away portions of the workpiece.

146. (new) The masonry block splitter of claim 145 wherein the first plurality of projections includes projections positioned on each side of the first splitting blade.

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147. (new) The masonry block splitter of claim 145, further including a second activatible splitting assembly opposed to the first splitting assembly, said second splitting assembly including a second splitting blade and a second plurality of projections positioned adjacent the second splitting blade on at least one side thereof to engage the workpiece to break away portions of the workpiece.

148. (new) The masonry block splitter of claim 147 wherein the second plurality of projections includes projections positioned on each side of each of the second splitting blade.

149. (new) The masonry block splitter of claim 145, wherein said first plurality of projections are adjacent said first splitting blade along the length of said splitting blade.

150. (new) The masonry block splitter of claim 145, wherein each of the projections is generally cylindrical with a rounded end.

151. (new) The masonry block splitter of claim 145, wherein said projections have a diameter of between about 0.5 inch and about 1.25 inches.

152. (new) The masonry block splitter of claim 145, wherein said projections are generally pyramidal in shape.

153. (new) The masonry block splitter of claim 145, wherein the first splitting blade has a workpiece-engaging edge, and the projections have workpiece-engaging tips that are

positioned relative to the workpiece-engaging edge so as to be between about 3/8 inch ahead of the workpiece-engaging edge and about 3/8 inch behind the workpiece engaging edge.

154. (new) The masonry block splitter of claim 146, wherein each projection on one side of the splitting blade is aligned with a projection on the other side of the splitting blade.

155. (new) The masonry block splitter of claim 146, wherein the projections on one side of the splitting blade are staggered with respect to the projections on the other side of the splitting blade.

156. (new) The masonry block splitter of claim 145, in which the projections and the splitting blade are fixed relative to each other during a splitting operation whereby the projections and the splitting blade move in concert when the splitting assembly is activated.

157. (new) The masonry block splitter of claim 145, wherein the projections are positioned on the first splitting assembly relative to the first splitting blade so as to engage the workpiece to break away portions of the workpiece substantially simultaneously with, or subsequent to, the first splitting blade engaging the workpiece.

158. (new) The masonry block splitter of claim 157, wherein at least some of the projections are positioned on the first splitting assembly relative to the first splitting blade so as to break away portions of the workpiece subsequent to the first splitting blade engaging the workpiece.

159. (new) The masonry block splitter of claim 145, wherein the projections are positioned to travel into the workpiece during the splitting operation.

160. (new) A splitting assembly for use in a masonry block splitter, comprising a splitting blade and a plurality of projections, the plurality of projections being positioned adjacent to the splitting blade on at least one side thereof, and the projections being positioned on the splitting assembly to engage a workpiece to break away portions of the workpiece.

161. (new) The splitting assembly of claim 160, the plurality of projections includes projections positioned on each side of the splitting blade.

162. (new) The splitting assembly of claim 160, wherein the projections are generally cylindrical with a rounded end.

163. (new) The splitting assembly of claim 162, wherein the projections have a diameter of between about 0.5 inch and about 1.25 inch.

164. (new) The splitting assembly of claim 160, wherein the projections are generally pyramidal in shape.

165. (new) The splitting assembly of claim 160, wherein the splitting blade has a workpiece-engaging edge, and the projections have workpiece-engaging tips that are positioned relative to the workpiece-engaging edge so as to be between about 3/8 inch ahead of the workpiece-engaging edge and about 3/8 inch behind the workpiece engaging edge.

166. (new) The splitting assembly of claim 161, wherein each projection on one side of the splitting blade is aligned with a projection on the other side of the splitting blade.

167. (new) The splitting assembly of claim 161, wherein the projections on one side of the splitting blade are staggered with respect to the projections on the other side of the splitting blade.

168. (new) The splitting assembly of claim 161, wherein the plurality of projections are adjacent the splitting blade along the length of the splitting blade.

169. (new) The masonry block splitter of claim 136 wherein the relative positions of the edge and the tips are adjustable.

170. (new) The masonry block splitter of claim 153 wherein the relative positions of the edge and the tips are adjustable.

171. (new) The splitting assembly of claim 165 wherein the relative positions of the edge and the tips are adjustable.

172. (new) The masonry block splitter of claim 127, wherein the splitter assembly is adapted to be activated by one or more hydraulically actuated cylinders.

173. (new) The masonry block splitter of claim 142, wherein the splitter assembly is adapted to be activated by one or more hydraulically actuated cylinders.

174. (new) The masonry block splitter of claim 145, wherein the splitter assembly is adapted to be activated by one or more hydraulically actuated cylinders.

175. (new) The masonry block splitter of claim 127, wherein the effective range of travel of the splitter assembly is variable.

176. (new) The masonry block splitter of claim 142, wherein the effective range of travel of the splitter assembly is variable.

177. (new) The masonry block splitter of claim 145, wherein the effective range of travel of the splitter assembly is variable.

178. (new) The masonry block splitter of claim 128, wherein the workpiece includes generally horizontal top and bottom surfaces and opposed, generally vertical, first and second side surfaces, wherein the first splitter assembly is adapted to engage the top surface of the workpiece, wherein the second splitter assembly is adapted to engage the bottom surface of the workpiece, and further including a third activatible splitter assembly adapted to engage the first side surface of the workpiece, and an opposed fourth activatible splitter assembly adapted to engage the second side surface of the workpiece, wherein each of the third and fourth splitter assemblies includes one or more projections positioned to engage the workpiece to break away portions of the workpiece during the splitting operation.

179. (new) The masonry block splitter of claim 143, wherein the workpiece includes generally horizontal top and bottom surfaces and opposed, generally vertical, first and second side surfaces, wherein the first splitter assembly is adapted to engage the top surface of the workpiece, wherein the second splitter assembly is adapted to engage the bottom surface of the

workpiece, and further including a third activatible splitter assembly adapted to engage the first side surface of the workpiece, and an opposed fourth activatible splitter assembly adapted to engage the second side surface of the workpiece, wherein each of the third and fourth splitter assemblies includes one or more projections positioned to engage the workpiece to break away portions of the workpiece during the splitting operation.

180. (new) The masonry block splitter of claim 147, wherein the workpiece includes generally horizontal top and bottom surfaces and opposed, generally vertical, first and second side surfaces, wherein the first splitter assembly is adapted to engage the top surface of the workpiece, wherein the second splitter assembly is adapted to engage the bottom surface of the workpiece, and further including a third activatible splitter assembly adapted to engage the first side surface of the workpiece, and an opposed fourth activatible splitter assembly adapted to engage the second side surface of the workpiece, wherein each of the third and fourth splitter assemblies includes one or more projections positioned to engage the workpiece to break away portions of the workpiece during the splitting operation.